

# SAN YSIDRO IN MOTION

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## Congressman Filner Against Border Bike Lane Closure

Congressman Bob Filner  
Condemns Bike Lane Closure at  
Border: "Another example of  
brainless INS decision-making!"

Congressman Bob Filner, San  
Diego's border congressman,  
recently ripped the INS' new plan  
to close the bicycle lane at the  
U.S.-Mexican border.

"Talk about a gang that can't  
shoot straight — this plan is  
totally ridiculous," said Filner.  
"They say that safety is the issue.  
Anyone who has ever crossed the  
border knows that traffic is at a  
complete standstill! How can a  
bunch of bicyclists in a dedicated  
bicycle lane be at risk when the  
cars in the neighboring lane aren't  
even moving?!"

After the attacks on September  
11th, border wait times increased  
to as much as three hours - and  
local businesses began to suffer as  
cross-border commerce plunged.

Thousands of legal border crossers  
began riding bicycles to the front  
of the vehicle lines as an  
innovative way to avoid the  
lengthy wait times. The INS  
responded by creating a dedicated  
bicycle lane, which they wanted  
closed.

"What we have here is another  
example of INS bureaucracy run  
amok - they're like the Keystone  
Cops," said Filner. "This is not a  
difficult problem. If there are  
concerns about bikes mixing with  
cars, find a way to keep them  
apart without shutting them out!"

Filner suggested that once the  
bicyclists cross the border, they  
could be kept separate from the  
cars with a barrier.

Throughout the past several  
months, Filner has led the charge  
to show how a slow and  
ineffective border is harming the  
San Diego economy. As a result

of his efforts, the San Diego City  
Council has declared an Economic  
State of Emergency at the border.  
Filner also wrote to Governor  
Davis and President Bush asking  
for assistance for border  
businesses - many of which have  
seen decreases of up to 75% in  
business since the 9-11 disaster.

"We can keep terrorists from  
entering our nation - and protect  
our border economy at the same  
time," said Filner. "I recently was  
able to help secure 1,000 new  
inspectors for the border - and I  
thought we were making some  
progress in improving border  
safety and wait times. But this is a  
gigantic step backwards."

Filner said that he believes a  
creative solution can be found  
that will continue to protect the  
country and also enable bicyclists  
to continue to cross the border  
safely and quickly.